



# MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 3-

DEPT.: Public Works / Water Treatment Plant

DATE: January 12, 2005

**ACTION:** Award Contracts for the Purchase and Installation of a Used Emergency Generator and Associated Equipment for the Water Treatment Plant.

**TO:** Western Branch Diesel Inc  
**OF:** Manassas, Virginia  
**AMOUNT:** \$220,862  
**FOR:** Used generator, fuel tank, and warranty

**TO:** Bretco Inc  
**OF:** Rockville, Maryland  
**AMOUNT:** \$69,500  
**FOR:** Switch gear

**TO:** Diamond Electric Inc  
**OF:** Meyersville, Maryland  
**AMOUNT:** \$42,000  
**FOR:** Installation

## ACTION STATUS:

**FOR THE MEETING OF:** 1/18/05

INTRODUCED  
PUB. HEARING  
INSTRUCTIONS  
APPROVED  
EFFECTIVE

## ROCKVILLE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER  
SECTION

☒ CONSENT AGENDA

## RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council award contracts to Western Branch Diesel Inc, Bretco Inc, and Diamond Electric Inc for the purchase and installation of a used emergency generator and associated equipment for the Water Treatment Plant in the total amount of \$332,362.

**IMPACT:** ☐ Environmental ☒ Fiscal ☐ Neighborhood ☐ Other:

Funding is available for this project from CIP account number 210-850-4B34-0426.

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**BACKGROUND:**

This project first went out to bid in January 2004. All bids received were significantly higher than the available funding so were rejected. In discussions with prospective vendors, staff has concluded that both the limited response and the bid prices were a result of bidder's abundance of work. Several additional companies were interested in bidding but were unable to submit bids because of time constraints. In order to allow for increased competition, staff revised the project to allow more time for completion and extended the solicitation period.

Bids went out again in December 2004 and again all bids received were significantly higher than the available funding so were rejected. Staff began to research alternatives including a used generator system.

Staff worked with two companies to conduct a national search for a used generator system. Additionally, staff searched the Web to locate a suitable solution. Only one generator was found to meet the specification and to qualify for a factory extended warranty. The total bid amount of \$332,362 (including the switch gear and installation) is \$104,000 below the lowest bid received after exhausting all alternatives.

**Project Description:**

This project is to furnish and install a used emergency generator system. The City needs a generator that is capable of running the Water Treatment Plant, at a level sufficient to meet the average demand level, for periods when commercial power is interrupted or not available due to weather or other emergencies.

The proposed, used generator staff is recommending the Mayor and Council approve is a 1,250 KW, diesel fuel system. Normally, a generator of this size is only diesel fuel operated. Research on the internet and from vendors by both the Water Plant Superintendent and the Fleet Manager, show that generators powered by natural gas are not made above 800 KW unless special ordered. A generator to be powered by natural gas would cost about four times as much to purchase and more expensive to operate. Also, we have the heating fuel tank, which, in an emergency, could provide us with up to an additional 1,500 gallons of fuel. Additionally, we could use the 500-gallon diesel fuel tank from Fleet Management.

Section 17-82 of the Purchasing Code, Sole Source Procurement, allows that a contract of any value may be awarded without competition when the awarding authority determines, based on a good faith review of available sources, that the availability of used machinery or equipment is limited, such as to make competitive procurement impractical and that the delay in procurement would be detrimental to the City.

**Funding:**

Funding is available for this project from CIP account number 210-850-4B34-0426 in the amount of \$300,000. An additional \$35,000 is needed to make the award. Staff is working with the Budget Office on funding options, which could include additional funds being appropriated in a budget amendment or a transfer from another CIP project in the Water Fund.

**References:**

Western Branch Diesel Inc has performed satisfactorily for the City for the past five years. Two companies were called to check the references of Bretco Inc and both proved to be acceptable. Diamond Electric Inc has performed satisfactorily for the City for the past 15 years.

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PREPARED BY: William Sizemore 1/7/2005

William Sizemore, Water Treatment Plant Supt. Date

CONCUR: Eileen Morris 1/7/05  
Eileen Morris, Contracts Officer Date

APPROVE: Eugene H. Cranor 1/7/05  
Eugene H. Cranor, Director of Public Works Date

APPROVE: Scott Ullery 1/13/05  
Scott Ullery, City Manager Date

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

None